

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026591  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

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R 011611Z PEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026591

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, CG

SUBJECT: IMF STANDBY AND ZAIRE ECONOMY RECOVERY EFFORTS

1. AT ROUTINE BRIEFING SESSION JANUARY 30 IN OFFICE OF  
IMF AMERICAN DIRECTOR SAM CROSS, SEVERAL POINTS OF INTEREST  
EMERGED CONCERNING IMF STANDBY.

2. IMF REPS, INCLUDING RUSSO AND ED BOURNEMAN, LEADER OF  
NOVEMBER'S INCONCLUSIVE IMF TEAM VISIT, SAID IMF HAD NOT  
YET FIXED A PRECISE DATE FOR RETURN OF FULL IMF COMPLIANCE  
TEAM TO ZAIRE. FEBRUARY AND MARCH WERE SPOKEN OF IN  
GENERAL TERMS, BUT IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT DATES ARE STILL  
OPEN, DEPENDENT IN LARGE PART ON DATA FINDINGS OF PRE-  
MISSION CURRENTLY IN ZAIRE. IT NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY TEAM  
WILL GO AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 11 DATE WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY  
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BEEN DISCUSSED AS POSSIBILITY.

3. PRE-MISSION DU: TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON WEEK OF  
FEBRUARY 6. IMF REPS COULD OFFER NO CLUES AS TO THEIR  
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS EXCEPT THAT ZAIRE DATA BASE STILL  
SKETCHY. IMF BEARISH ABOUT ADEQUATE EXTERNAL RESOURCE

FLOW IN SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM EVEN IF ZAIRE HONORS STANDBY.

THERE WERE MIXED IMF STAFF JUDGMENTS AS TO WHETHER POLITICAL WILL REQUIRED FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY EXISTS OR NOT. ON MOBUTU PLAN, IMF REPS SAID THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED SIMONET LETTER AS WELL AS FIRST PART OF RELANCE PAPER BUT HAD DEVELOPED NO POSITION ON EITHER. MOBUTU WAS SAID TO HAVE MINISTER OF PLAN, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR WITH HIM IN EUROPE AT PRESENT. IMF HAD NO KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, OF WHEN SPECIAL EMISSARY MIGHT COME OR WHO IT MIGHT BE.

5. VERY TENTATIVE CONSIDERATION CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN IN THE FUND TO POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING A RESIDENT IMF REPRESENTATIVE INTO ZAIRE IF REQUESTED, BUT THERE IS ALSO SOME OPPOSITION TO THIS IDEA AT THE IMF POLICY LEVEL. AT ANY RATE IT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE PUT FORWARD SERIOUSLY FOR DECISION AT ANY TIME SOON.

6. COMMENT: WITH MOST DECISIONS HINGING TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE ON THE KIND OF GOZ COMMITMENTS MADE UNDER A NEW IMF STANDBY AGREEMENT--THE MOBUTU PLAN AND DEBT RESCHEDULING, TO NAME TWO--SOME SLIPPAGE IN THE ZAIRE ECONOMIC RECOVERY SCENARIO SHOULD PERHAPS NOT BE RULED OUT, EVEN REASONABLY EXPECTED, IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. VANCE

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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